

**NECC 2008 Proposal Submission****Proposal Synopsis (Proposal ID# 42062427)**

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Category/Subcategory Selection[\[view/edit this section \]](#)

Category/Subcategory Session -- Panel

General Information[\[view/edit this section \]](#)

Session Title	Global Collaboration Best Practices: Flat Classroom and Horizon Projects
Session Description	Teachers share best practices from their award winning global projects. How students in seven countries connected with pedagogically sound methods and multiple technologies.
Theme and Strand	21st-Century Teaching & Learning: Innovative Learning Technologies
Keywords	global, collaboration, web2.0, flatclassroom, horizonproject
Primary URL	http://flatclassroompresents.wikispaces.com
Exhibitor Status	
Commercial Content	
Audience Type	Chief Technology Officers Curriculum Specialists Principals Staff Developers Superintendents School Board Members Teachers Teacher Educators Technology Coordinators Technology Facilitators Technology Integration Specialists
Audience Level	6-12

NETS•S	1- 6
NETS•T	I- IV, VI
NETS•A	I- VI

Proposal Summary

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Purpose & Objectives Global collaborative classrooms are emerging as a grassroots effort of teachers around the world. The educators on this panel have been involved in up to four major global collaborative projects. The 2006 and 2007 Flat Classroom Project (<http://flatclassroomproject.wikispaces.com>) received ISTE's SIGTEI award for best online Learning project of 2007 and has joined classes in Bangladesh and US (2006), and in Qatar, the United States, Austria, Australia, and China (2007). These projects were co-founded by teachers Julie Lindsay (<http://123learning.blogspot.com>) and Vicki Davis (<http://coolcatteacher.blogspot.com>). The project has received multiple awards including the Edublog Award for Best Wiki in Education for 2006 and the Taking IT Global Best Online Project of 2007. The 2007 (and Spring 2008) Horizon Project (<http://horizonproject.wikispaces.com>) continues the expansion of classrooms in seven countries and also adds a major peer review component led by Sharon Peters (<http://www.mtl-peters.net/blog/>) in her Canadian Literature classroom. In this review students from around the world peer review the videos and wikis of the 50+ Horizon Project student participants. Additionally, Sharon's project, co-created with Reuven Warner (Israel), was runner up in SIGTel's Online Learning Award for 2007. The impact of the Horizon Project has been educationally beneficial on several levels. Individual students have had the opportunity to work with fellow students who they have not personally met and in doing so create work teams applicable to 21st century learning. Teachers have engaged with Web 2 tools in a purposeful, engaged, and supported way that has generated teaching opportunities they would otherwise have only been able to consider as individuals. Finally, school administrators have been shown the educational potential of Web 2 tools such as wikis, blogs, social bookmarking, online interactive whiteboards, [to name just a few] and in this way are better informed for their crucial decision-making responsibilities. Finally, the ongoing nature of the projects enables new directions to be taken through informed reflection, risk taking and pedagogically empowered support. This is the way of the world in which students are growing up and will have to work in.

Panelists will discuss the best practices used to bridge time zones, distance, and culture and the strategies employed to make meaningful, pedagogically sound projects with their teacher-partners from around the world. The participants will outline their views on effective global collaborative project, the infrastructure and tools required, and the challenges. Additionally many presentation resources will be shared. A "backchannel" conversation will be used and created for this session allowing participants with a laptop to contribute to an ongoing discussion of the presentation as it is being given. This discussion will be archived and shared on the presentation wiki and will be monitored to present questions to the panelists.

Outline

All slides will be shared in a google presentation with a live chat occurring during the presentation. This live chat will be posted on the presentation wiki at the conclusion of the session and will also be used to allow audience questions. The session will be recorded and podcast afterwards on the presentation wiki.

- I. What is a Flat Classroom? - 10 minutes
 - A. Origin and Concept
 - B. Observable Benefits (providing opportunities for collaboration, deeper understanding of global issues)
 - C. The Digital Citizenship Imperative
- II. Background on the Projects - 15 minutes

(key characteristics and aspects that make them innovative approaches and 2 samples of student work on each project, additionally resource listings such as release forms for student exploration of Second Life, and consent forms for the extensive research conducted in this project will be shared)

A. Flat Classroom (<http://flatclassroomproject.wikispaces.com>)

B. Horizon Project (<http://horizonproject.wikispaces.com>)

III. Key Success Factors - 25 minutes

A. Integration of emerging EdTech Trends into Projects

B. Effective communication Tools (We will share our toolboxes)

i. Asynchronous - wikis, podcasts, private social network, blogs, file transfer programs

ii. Synchronous - global classroom (Elluminate), twitter, instant messenger

C. Cost Effective Software and Tools (Toolbox of software used)

D. Peer Review

E. Integration of Experts

F. Use of a tagging standard

IV. Measurable Outcomes - 10 minutes

A. Results of research on efficacy of project on changing a student's global awareness

B. Results of research on global collaborative learning groups (Sharon will you word this?)

Supporting Research

Thomas Friedman's version 3 of The World is Flat (pages 501-503) listed the Flat Classroom Project as an example of innovative approaches to connect our global world. Additionally, the Flat Classroom Project received SIGTel's Online Learning Award for 2007, the Taking IT Global Best Online Learning Project for 2006, and the Edublog Award for best Wiki of 2006. Additionally, after completion of the Horizon Project 2007, Educause and the New Media consortium selected Ms. Lindsay and Ms. Davis to serve on their Advisory Panel for the 2008 Horizon Report to be printed in 1Q2008. Ms. Lindsay and Ms. Davis have written articles on the Flat Classroom Project for ISTE's Leading and Learning Magazine and featured extensively in ISTE's Book Reinventing Project Based Learning by Suzie Boss and Jane Krauss. Presenter Sharon Peters has presented various research papers (including at last year's NECC) about the importance of effective learning environments.

Presenter Background

Vicki Davis - Teacher and IT Director - Westwood Schools, Camilla Georgia; co-winner SIGTEL's Online Learning Award 2007; Taking IT Global Best Online Learning Project 2006; Edublog Award for best Wiki 2006; Wikispaces Wiki of the Month December 2005; Edublog Finalist for Best Teacher Blog 2006; Finalist Edutopia's Totally Wired teacher Award 2007; Contributor to Wikis in Education by Stewart Mader, Brown University; Authored articles for Cable in the Classroom magazine, Leading and Learning, Technology and Learning; Bi-weekly blogger at Techlearning.com; Author of the popular Teacher Blog Cool Cat Teacher; presenter at NECC 2006; presenter at the Future of Education Conference, K12 Online 2006, K12 Online 2007; Maine Technology Conference 2007; Illinois technology Conference 2008; Tech Forum - Chicago 2007; Georgia Educators Technology Conference 2006, 2007; Keynote Presenter at the Center for Quality Teaching and Learning at Columbus State University Columbus, Georgia; co-founder Women of Web 2 (www.womenofweb2.com), and co-host of the weekly WOW2 show at edtechtalk on Tuesday nights at 9 pm (www.edtechtalk.com)

Julie Lindsay -

Sharon Peters -

John Turner - Teacher and Head of Information Technology subject - Presbyterian Ladies' College, Burwood, Melbourne, Australia. Highly commended in 2006 ISTE SIGTel Online Learning Awards for the project 'Bangladesh to Australia: Cross cultural learning via online collaboration.', Presenter, International Conference on

Computers in Education in Singapore, 28 November - 2 December 2005.
Presentation: "A research-supported approach to using Weblogs as a sustainable educational innovation in an Australian post-primary school", IARTV Occasion Paper No 89 "Teacher Learning and leadership for the 21st century: a view from the classroom" [February 2005], PHD thesis investigated the use of software to support constructivist learning as used by Mathematics teachers within a school environment.

Equipment Information

[[view/edit this section](#)]

Whiteboard Requests
Videoconferencing
Videoconferencing
Description
Room Set Information

Additional Presenters

[[view/edit this section](#)]

Co-Presenter #1	Julie Lindsay PO Box 1129 Doha Qatar lindsay.julie@gmail.com
Co-Presenter #2	Jo McLeay 12 Monteith Crescent Endeavour Hills VIC Australia jbmcleay@gmail.com
Co-Presenter #3	Sharon Peters 23 Tampico Ave. Pointe Claire QC Canada sharonpeters@gmail.com
Co-Presenter #4	John Turner Burwood Highway Burwood VIC Australia jturner@plc.vic.edu.au

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